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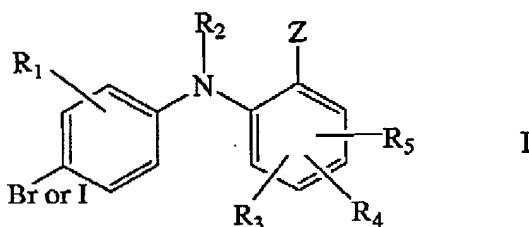
### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

#### Listing of claims:

#### Claims 1-5 (cancelled)

**Claim 6 (currently amended)** A method for treating arthritis comprising administering to a patient suffering from arthritis ~~and~~ an effective antiarthritic amount of a MEK inhibitor, wherein the MEK inhibitor is a compound of Formula I



wherein:

R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkoxy, halo, trifluoromethyl, or CN;

R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen ;

R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, and R<sub>5</sub> independently are hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, trifluoromethyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkoxy, nitro, CN, or -(O or NH)<sub>m</sub>-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-R<sub>9</sub>, where R<sub>9</sub> is hydrogen, hydroxy, COOH, or NR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>;

n is 0-4;

m is 0 or 1;

R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>11</sub> independently are hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, or taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached can complete a 3-10 member cyclic ring optionally containing 1, 2, or 3 additional heteroatoms selected from O, S, NH, or N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl;

Z is COOR<sub>6</sub>, tetrazolyl, CONR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub>, CONHNHNR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, or CH<sub>2</sub>OR<sub>7</sub>;

R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> independently are hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkynyl, (CO)-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> cycloalkyl optionally containing one, two, or three heteroatoms selected from O, S, NH, or N

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alkyl; or R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> together with the nitrogen to which they are attached complete a 3-10 member cyclic ring optionally containing 1,2, or 3 additional heteroatoms selected from O, S, NH, or N alkyl; and wherein any of the foregoing alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heterocyclic, and alkynyl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted by halo, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, amino, nitro, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylamino, di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>) alkylamino, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenoxy, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> heteroaryl, or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> heteroaryloxy; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, amide, or prodrug thereof.

**Claim 7 (currently amended)** The method according to Claim 6 wherein the MEK inhibitor is a compound selected from:

[4-Chloro-2-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)-phenyl-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenyl)-amine;  
(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenyl)-[2-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)-phenyl]amine;  
[4-nitro-2-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)-phenyl-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenyl)-amine;  
4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methylphenylamino)benzoic acid;  
3,4,5-Trifluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid;  
5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid;  
5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid;  
Sodium 5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoate;  
5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid;  
2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzoic acid;  
4-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid;  
2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid;  
5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid;  
5-Iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid;  
2,3,5-Trifluoro-4-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid;  
2-(4-Iodo-phenylamino)-5-methoxy-benzoic acid;  
5-Methyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoic acid;  
2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzoic acid;  
2-(4-Bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-fluoro-benzoic acid;

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2-(2-Bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzoic acid;  
2-(4-Bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-benzoic acid;  
5-Chloro-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-methyl-benzamide;  
N-Ethyl-4-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N,N-dimethyl-benzamide;  
4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N,N-dimethyl-benzamide;  
[5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzoylamino]-acetic acid;  
4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-propyl-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-N-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
N,N-Diethyl-4-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
4-Fluoro-N-{3-[4-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
N,N-Diethyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide;  
N-Butyl-4-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-N,N-diethyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N,N-dimethyl-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-N-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
N-(2,3-Dihydroxy-propyl)-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-N-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
N-(2,3-Dihydroxy-propyl)-4-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-N-(3-hydroxy-propyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

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5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-pyridin-4-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

4-Fluoro-N-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-N-(3-dimethylamino-propyl)-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-pyridin-4-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

N-(3-Dimethylamino-propyl)-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

N-Benzyl-4-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

2-(4-Bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-benzamide;

4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-piperidin-1-yl-propyl)-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-piperidin-1-yl-propyl)-benzamide;

4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-thiophen-2-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

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2-(4-Bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-pyridin-4-ylmethyl-benzamide;

3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-pyridin-4-ylmethyl-benzamide;

2-(4-Bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-dimethylamino-propyl)-3,4-difluoro-benzamide;

4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-pyridin-4-ylmethyl-benzamide;

4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-pyridin-4-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

2-(4-Bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-(2-pyridin-4-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

2-(4-Bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-(3-hydroxy-propyl)-benzamide;

2-(4-Bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-(2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-phenethyl-benzamide;

2-(4-Bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-(2-thiophen-2-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

2-(4-Bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-pyridin-4-ylmethyl-benzamide;

2-(4-Bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-phenethyl-benzamide;

2-(4-Bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

5-Chloro-N-{3-[4-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Fluoro-N-{3-[4-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-N-pyridin-4-yl methyl-benzamide;

5-Bromo-N-{3-[4-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

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5-Chloro-N-(2-diethylamino-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

(3-Hydroxy-pyrrolidin-1-yl)-[2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-phenyl]-methanone;

5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-N-(2-diethylamino-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

N-{2-[Bis-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-amino]-ethyl}-5-chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)- benzamide;

N-{2-[Bis-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-amino]-ethyl}-5-bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)- benzamide;

N-{3-[4-(2-Hydroxy-ethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-propyl}-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)- benzamide;

5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-pyridin-4-ylmethyl-benzamide;

5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-ethyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

5-Chloro-N-(3-dimethylamino-propyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

N-{2-[Bis-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-amino]-ethyl}-5-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)- benzamide;

5-Chloro-N-(3-hydroxy-propyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Chloro-N-(3-diethylamino-2-hydroxy-propyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)- benzamide;

5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

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5-Bromo-N-(3-hydroxy-propyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-piperidin-1-yl-propyl)-  
benzamide;  
N-{2-[Bis-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-amino]-ethyl}-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-  
nitro- benzamide;  
5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethyl)-  
benzamide;  
5-Chloro-N-(3-diethylamino-propyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-  
benzamide;  
5-Chloro-N-(2-diisopropylamino-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-  
benzamide;  
5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-piperidin-1-yl-propyl)-  
benzamide;  
2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-N-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-piperazin-1-yl-ethyl)-  
benzamide;  
N-(2-Diethylamino-ethyl)-5-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-N-(3-dimethylamino-propyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-  
benzamide;  
N-(3-Hydroxy-propyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide;  
5-Fluoro-N-(3-hydroxy-propyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
N-(3-Diethylamino-propyl)-5-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-  
benzamide;  
N-(3-Diethylamino-propyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethyl)-  
benzamide;  
2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-N-(3-piperidin-1-yl-propyl)-  
benzamide;  
[5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-phenyl]-(3-hydroxy-pyrrolidin-1-yl)-  
methanone;

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5-Bromo-N-(2-diisopropylamino-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-morpholin-4-yl-ethyl)-benzamide;

5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-piperidin-1-yl-propyl)-benzamide;

[5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-phenyl]-[4-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-piperazin-1-yl]-methanone;

N-(3-Diethylamino-2-hydroxy-propyl)-5-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)- benzamide;

N-Cyclopropyl-5-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Chloro-N-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Fluoro-N-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

N-Benzyloxy-5-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

N-Benzyloxy-5-bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

~~2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-N-(4-sulfamoyl-benzyl)-benzamide;~~

5-Bromo-N-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

N-(2-Hydroxy-ethyl)-5-iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

N-(2-Hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-ethyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide;

2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-methyl-5-nitro-N-phenyl-benzamide;

5-Chloro-N-cyclopropyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-methyl-N-phenyl-benzamide;

N-Allyl-5-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

N-Benzyloxy-5-iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

~~5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(4-sulfamoyl-benzyl)-benzamide;~~

N-Allyl-5-chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

N-Cyclopropyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide;

5-Bromo-N-cyclopropyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-methyl-N-phenyl-benzamide;

~~5-Iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(4-sulfamoyl-benzyl)-benzamide;~~

~~5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(4-sulfamoyl-benzyl)-benzamide;~~



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N-Allyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide;  
~~2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-N-(4-sulfamoyl-benzyl)-benzamide;~~  
N-Allyl-5-bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-methyl-benzyl)-benzamide;  
N-Cyclopropyl-5-iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-methyl-N-phenyl-benzamide;  
N-Benzyloxy-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide;  
N-Cyclohexyl-5-iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
N-Allyl-5-iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-methyl-benzyl)-benzamide;  
2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-methyl-benzyl)-5-nitro-benzamide;  
5-Iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-methyl-N-phenyl-benzamide;  
N-Cyclohexyl-5-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-N-cyclohexyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-methyl-benzyl)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-N-cyclohexyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-methyl-benzyl)-benzamide;  
N-Cyclohexyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide;  
N-Benzyloxy-5-bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
N-Benzyloxy-5-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-N-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-N-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-methyl-5-nitro-N-phenyl-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-methyl-N-phenyl-benzamide;  
N-(2-Hydroxy-ethyl)-5-iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-N-cyclopropyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
N-Allyl-5-chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-methyl-N-phenyl-benzamide;  
N-(2-Hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide;  
5-Fluoro-N-(2-hydroxy-ethyl)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-N-cyclopropyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

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N-Cyclopropyl-5-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
~~5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(4-sulfamoyl-benzyl)-benzamide;~~  
N-Cyclopropyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide;  
N-Allyl-5-fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
N-Benzyloxy-5-iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
N-Allyl-5-bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
~~5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(4-sulfamoyl-benzyl)-benzamide;~~  
5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-methyl-N-phenyl-benzamide;  
N-Allyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide;  
4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzyl alcohol;  
[5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-phenyl]-methanol;  
[2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-phenyl]-methanol;  
[5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-phenyl]-methanol; and  
N-Allyl-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-benzamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, amide, or prodrug thereof.

**Claim 8 (previously presented)** The method of claim 6, wherein the MEK inhibitor is a compound of Formula (I) wherein (a) R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, methyl, methoxy, fluoro, chloro, or bromo; (b) R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen; (c) R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, and R<sub>5</sub> independently are hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, methyl, methoxy, or nitro; (d) R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>11</sub> independently are hydrogen or methyl; (e) Z is COOR<sub>7</sub>, tetrazolyl, CONR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub>, CONHNR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>, or CH<sub>2</sub>OR<sub>7</sub>; R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> independently are hydrogen, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl, heteroaryl, or C<sub>3-5</sub> cycloalkyl optionally containing one or two heteroatoms selected from O, S, or NH; or R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> together with the nitrogen to which they are attached complete a 5-6 member cyclic ring optionally containing 1 or 2 additional heteroatoms selected from O, NH or N-alkyl; and wherein any of the foregoing alkyl or aryl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted by halo, hydroxy, methoxy, ethoxy, or heteroaryloxy.

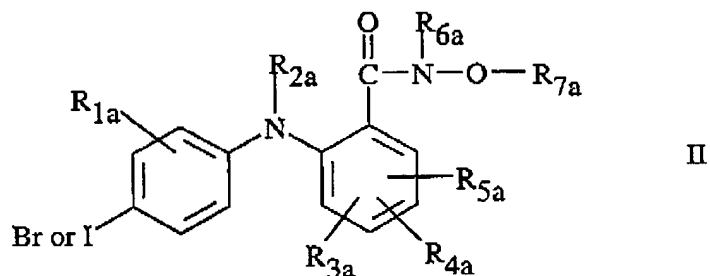
**Claim 9 (original)** The method of claim 8, wherein the MEK inhibitor is a compound of Formula (I) wherein: Z is COOR<sub>7</sub>; R<sub>7</sub> is H, pentafluorophenyl, or tetrazolyl; R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are independently H, fluoro, or chloro; and R<sub>4</sub> is fluoro.

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**Claim 10 (currently amended)** A method for treating arthritis comprising administering to a patient suffering from arthritis ~~and~~ an effective antiarthritic amount of a MEK inhibitor, wherein the MEK inhibitor is a compound of Formula II



wherein:

R<sub>1a</sub> is hydrogen, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkoxy, halo, trifluoromethyl, or CN;

R<sub>2a</sub> is hydrogen;

R<sub>3a</sub>, R<sub>4a</sub>, and R<sub>5a</sub> independently are hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, trifluoromethyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkoxy, nitro, CN, or (O or NH)<sub>m</sub>-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-R<sub>9a</sub>, where R<sub>9a</sub> is hydrogen, hydroxy, CO<sub>2</sub>H or NR<sub>10a</sub>R<sub>11a</sub>.

n is 0-4;

m is 0 or 1;

R<sub>10a</sub> and R<sub>11a</sub> independently are hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, or taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached can complete a 3- to 10-member cyclic ring optionally containing one, two, or three additional heteroatoms selected from O, S, NH, or N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl;

R<sub>6a</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, (CO)-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> cycloalkyl;

R<sub>7a</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkynyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> (cycloalkyl or cycloalkyl optionally containing a heteroatom selected from O, S, or NR<sub>9a</sub>);

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and wherein any of the foregoing alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic, and alkynyl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted by halo, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, amino, nitro, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylamino, di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkylamino, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenoxy, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> heteroaryl or heterocyclic radical, or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> heteroaryloxy or heterocyclic radical-oxy; or R<sub>6a</sub> and R<sub>7a</sub> taken together with the N to which they are attached can complete a 5- to 10-membered cyclic ring, optionally containing one, two, or three additional heteroatoms selected from O, S, or NR<sub>10a</sub>R<sub>11a</sub>;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, amide or prodrug thereof.

**Claim 11 (original)** The method of Claim 10, comprising a MEK inhibitor having a structure of Formula (II) wherein: (a) R<sub>1a</sub> is H, methyl, fluoro, or chloro; (b) R<sub>2a</sub> is H; R<sub>3a</sub>, R<sub>4a</sub>, and R<sub>5a</sub> are each H, Cl, nitro, or F; (c) R<sub>6a</sub> is H; (d) R<sub>7a</sub> is methyl, ethyl, 2-propenyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl, hexyl, cyclopropylmethyl, cyclobutyl methyl, cyclopropylmethyl, or cyclopropylethyl; and (e) the 4' position is I, rather than Br.

**Claim 12 (original)** The method of claim 11, comprising a MEK inhibitor having a structure of Formula (II) wherein: R<sub>4a</sub> is F at the 4 position, para to the CO-N-R<sub>6a</sub>-OR<sub>7a</sub> group and meta to the bridging nitrogen; at least one of R<sub>3a</sub> and R<sub>5a</sub> is F or Cl; and R<sub>1a</sub> is methyl or chloro.

**Claim 13 (previously presented)** The method of Claim 10, comprising a MEK inhibitor having a formula selected from:

- 4-Fluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;
- 4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(methoxy)-benzamide;
- 4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(prop-2-ynyloxy)-benzamide;
- 4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-phenoxyethoxy)-benzamide;
- 4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-thienylmethoxy)-benzamide;
- 4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(prop-2-enyloxy)-benzamide;
- 4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(cyclopropylmethoxy)-benzamide;
- 4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(cyclopentoxo)-benzamide;

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3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-furylmethoxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-ethoxy-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(but-2-enyloxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(cyclopropylmethoxy)-  
benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(1-methylprop-2-ynyloxy)-  
benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-phenylprop-2-ynyloxy)-  
benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-methyl-5-phenylpent-2-en-  
4-ynyloxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(prop-2-ynyloxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(propoxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(cyclobutylloxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-thienylmethoxy)-  
benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-methyl-prop-2-enyloxy)-  
benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-phenoxyethoxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(but-2-enyloxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(but-3-ynyloxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(cyclopentylloxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-(2-fluorophenyl)-prop-  
2-ynyloxy)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(n-propoxy)-  
benzamide;  
5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-N-(furan-3-ylmethoxy)-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-  
benzamide;  
5-Bromo-N-(but-2-enyloxy)-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-  
benzamide

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5-Bromo-N-butoxy-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-methyl-but-2-enyloxy)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-methyl-pent-2-en-4-ynyloxy)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-benzyl)-N-[5-(3-methoxy-phenyl)-3-methyl-pent-2-en-4-ynyloxy]-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(prop-2-ynyloxy)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-[3-(3-methoxy-phenyl)-prop-2-ynyloxy]-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(thiopen-2-ylmethoxy)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(pyridin-3-ylmethoxy)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-(2-fluorophenyl)-prop-2-ynyloxy)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(ethoxy)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(cyclopropylmethoxy)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(isopropoxy)-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-but-3-ynyloxy)-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(tetrahydro-pyran-2-yloxy)-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-methoxy-benzamide;  
4-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-phenylmethoxy-benzamide;  
4-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-phenylmethoxy-benzamide;  
5-Fluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

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5-Iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-phenylmethoxy-benzamide;  
5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(tetrahydropyran-2-yloxy)-  
benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-phenylprop-2-ynyloxy)-  
benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-furylmethoxy)-  
benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-thienylmethoxy)-  
benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(but-3-ynyloxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-methyl-prop-2-enyloxy)-  
benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(but-2-enyloxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(methoxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(ethoxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(cyclobutoxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(isopropoxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(2-phenoxyethoxy)-  
benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(cyclopropylmethoxy)-  
benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(n-propoxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(1-methyl-prop-2-ynyloxy)-  
benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(3-(3-fluorophenyl)-prop-  
2-ynyloxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(4,4-dimethylpent-  
2-ynyloxy)-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(4-bromo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(cyclopentoxy)-benzamide;  
3,4,5-Trifluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-benzamide;

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5-Bromo-3,4-difluoro-2-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
N-Hydroxy-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzamide;  
3,4,5-Trifluoro-2-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-3,4-difluoro-2-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-2-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
2-(2-Fluoro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-hydroxy-4-nitro-benzamide;  
2-(2-Chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-3,4,5-trifluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
5-Chloro-2-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
5-Bromo-2-(2-bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
2-(2-Chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-hydroxy-4-methyl-benzamide;  
2-(2-Bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-3,4,5-trifluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
2-(2-Bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-5-chloro-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
2-(2-Bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-hydroxy-4-nitro-benzamide;  
4-Fluoro-2-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
3,4-Difluoro-2-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
2-(2-Chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-4-fluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
2-(2-Chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
2-(2-Bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-4-fluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
2-(2-Bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-3,4-difluoro-N-hydroxy-benzamide;  
N-Cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-  
benzamide;  
5-Chloro-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-  
benzamide;  
5-Bromo-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-2-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-  
benzamide;  
N-Cyclopropylmethoxy-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzamide;  
N-Cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-2-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-  
benzamide;  
5-Chloro-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-2-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-  
benzamide;



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5-Bromo-2-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide;

N-Cyclopropylmethoxy-2-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-4-nitro-benzamide;

2-(2-Chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzamide;

5-Chloro-2-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide;

5-Bromo-2-(2-bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-ethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide;

2-(2-Chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-ethoxy-4-nitro-benzamide;

2-(2-Bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluoro-benzamide;

2-(2-Bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-5-chloro-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide

2-(2-Bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-nitro-benzamide;

N-Cyclopropylmethoxy-4-fluoro-2-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-benzamide;

N-Cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-2-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-benzamide;

2-(2-Chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-fluoro-benzamide;

2-(2-Chloro-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide;

2-(2-Bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-fluoro-benzamide;

and

2-(2-Bromo-4-iodo-phenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-benzamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, amide, or prodrug thereof.

**Claim 14 (previously presented)** The method of claim 1, comprising a MEK inhibitor having a structure selected from:

2-(2-chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-5-chloro-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluorobenzamide;

2-(4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-5-chloro-3,4-difluorobenzamide;

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2-(4-iodophenylamino)-5-chloro-3,4-difluorobenzoic acid;  
2-(2-chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-5-chloro-3,4-difluorobenzoic acid;  
5-chloro-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methylphenylamino)-benzoic acid; and  
5-chloro-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methylphenylamino)-benzamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, amide, or prodrug thereof.

**Claim 15 (previously presented)** A method of treating arthritis in a patient in need of treatment, or suspected of developing arthritis, said method comprising the step of administering an effective antiarthritic amount of a compound selected from:

2-(2-Chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluorobenzamide;  
2-(2-Methyl-4-iodophenylamino)-N-hydroxy-4-fluorobenzamide;  
2-(2-Methyl-4-iodophenylamino)-N-hydroxy-3,4-difluoro-5-bromobenzamide;  
2-(2-Methyl-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-5-bromobenzamide;  
2-(2-Methyl-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclobutylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-5-bromobenzamide;  
2-(2-Chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluoro-5-bromobenzamide;  
2-(2-Chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-N-hydroxy-3,4-difluoro-5-bromobenzamide;  
2-(2-Chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclobutylmethoxy-3,4-difluorobenzamide;  
2-(2-Chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-N-hydroxy-4-fluorobenzamide;  
2-(2-Methyl-4-iodophenylamino)-N-hydroxy-3,4-difluorobenzamide;  
2-(2-Methyl-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4,5-trifluorobenzamide; and  
2-(2-Chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-fluorobenzamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, amide, or prodrug thereof.

**Claim 16 (previously presented)** The method of Claim 15 wherein said compound is selected from

2-(2-chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluorobenzamide;

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2-(2-Methyl-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-  
3,4,5-trifluorobenzamide; and  
2-(2-Chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-4-fluorobenzamide;  
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, amide, or prodrug thereof.

**Claim 17 (previously presented)** A method of treating or reducing the risk of arthritis in a patient in need of treatment, or suspected of developing arthritis, said method comprising the step of administering an effective antiarthritic amount of 2-(2-Chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluorobenzamide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

**Claim 18 (previously presented)** The method of Claim 8, wherein the MEK inhibitor is a compound of Formula (I) wherein: Z is COOR<sub>7</sub>; R<sub>7</sub> is H, pentafluorophenyl, or tetrazolyl; and R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, and R<sub>5</sub> are independently H, fluoro, or chloro.

**Claim 19 (previously presented)** The method of Claim 8, wherein the MEK inhibitor is a compound of Formula (I) wherein: Z is COOR<sub>7</sub>; R<sub>7</sub> is H, pentafluorophenyl, or tetrazolyl; and R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, and R<sub>5</sub> independently are fluoro.

**Claim 20 (previously presented)** A method for treating rheumatoid arthritis comprising administering to a patient suffering from rheumatoid arthritis a therapeutically effective amount of 2-(2-Chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluorobenzamide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

**Claim 21 (previously presented)** A method for treating osteoarthritis comprising administering to a patient suffering from osteoarthritis a therapeutically effective amount of 2-(2-Chloro-4-iodophenylamino)-N-cyclopropylmethoxy-3,4-difluorobenzamide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

**Claim 22 (previously presented)** The method for treating arthritis of Claim 6 wherein the arthritis is rheumatoid arthritis.

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**Claim 23 (previously presented)** The method for treating arthritis of Claim 6 wherein the arthritis is osteoarthritis.

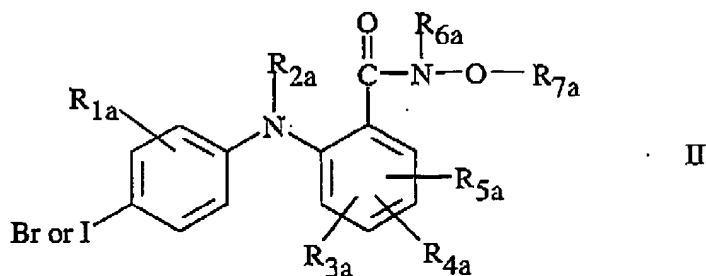
**Claim 24 (new)** A method for treating arthritis, the method comprising administering to a patient suffering from arthritis an effective antiarthritic amount of a MEK inhibitor, wherein the MEK inhibitor is a compound selected from:

2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-N-(4-sulfamoyl-benzyl)-benzamide;  
 5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(4-sulfamoyl-benzyl)-benzamide;  
 5-Iodo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(4-sulfamoyl-benzyl)-benzamide;  
 5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(4-sulfamoyl-benzyl)-benzamide;  
 2-(4-Iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-5-nitro-N-(4-sulfamoyl-benzyl)-benzamide;  
 5-Fluoro-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(4-sulfamoyl-benzyl)-benzamide;  
 and  
 5-Bromo-2-(4-iodo-2-methyl-phenylamino)-N-(4-sulfamoyl-benzyl)-benzamide;  
 or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, amide, or prodrug thereof.

**Claim 25 (new)** The method for treating arthritis according to claim 10, wherein  $R_{1a}$  is H, methyl, fluoro, or chloro;  $R_{6a}$  is H; the 4' position is I, rather than Br;  $R_{4a}$  is F at the 4 position, para to the CO-N- $R_{6a}$ -OR $_{7a}$  group and meta to the bridging nitrogen; and  $R_{3a}$  or  $R_{5a}$  is F.

**Claim 26 (new).** The method for treating arthritis according to claim 25, wherein the MEK inhibitor is a compound of Formula II



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wherein:

the 4' position is I, rather than Br;

R<sub>1a</sub> H, methyl, fluoro, or chloro;

R<sub>2a</sub> is hydrogen;

R<sub>3a</sub> or R<sub>5a</sub> is F and the other of R<sub>3a</sub> or R<sub>5a</sub> independently is hydrogen, hydroxy,

halo, trifluoromethyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkoxy, nitro, CN, or

(O or NH)<sub>m</sub>-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-R<sub>9a</sub>, where R<sub>9a</sub> is hydrogen, hydroxy, CO<sub>2</sub>H or

NR<sub>10a</sub>R<sub>11a</sub>;

R<sub>4a</sub> is F at the 4-position, para to the CO-N-R<sub>6a</sub>-OR<sub>7a</sub> group and meta to the

bridging nitrogen;

n is 0-4;

m is 0 or 1;

R<sub>10a</sub> and R<sub>11a</sub> independently are hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, or taken together

with the nitrogen to which they are attached can complete a 3- to

10-member cyclic ring optionally containing one, two, or three additional

heteroatoms selected from O, S, NH, or N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl;

R<sub>6a</sub> is H;

R<sub>7a</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkynyl,

C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> (cycloalkyl or cycloalkyl optionally containing a heteroatom  
selected from O, S, or NR<sub>9a</sub>);

and wherein any of the foregoing alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclic, and  
alkynyl groups can be unsubstituted or substituted by halo, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy,  
amino, nitro, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylamino, di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkylamino, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenoxy,  
C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> heteroaryl or heterocyclic radical, or C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> heteroaryloxy or heterocyclic radical-  
oxy; or R<sub>6a</sub> and R<sub>7a</sub> taken together with the N to which they are attached can complete a  
5- to 10-membered cyclic ring, optionally containing one, two, or three additional  
heteroatoms selected from O, S, or NR<sub>10a</sub>R<sub>11a</sub>.

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**Claim 27 (new)** The method for treating arthritis according to claims 25 or 26, wherein the arthritis is rheumatoid arthritis.

**Claim 28 (new)** The method for treating arthritis according to claims 25 or 26, wherein the arthritis is osteoarthritis.